Participation of Foreign Equity in Mining

1685. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision regarding participation of foreign equity in mining; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to amend the MMRD Act for this propose thus raising foreign equity in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Mines & Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act as amended by the recent Ordinance permits grant of prospecting licences or mining leases to any company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section (3) of Companies Act, 1956. It does not stipulate any additional condition pertaining to foreign equity in such companies.

Gold Deposits in Andhra Pradesh

1686. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether new gold deposits have been found in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken for the mining of this precious metal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of survey carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Kothapalle block, Ramagiri-Penakacherla schist belt of Anantapur district, a reserve of 33,000 tonnes of gold ore with an average grade of 3.2 g/t of gold upto a vertical depth of 75m. has been established. Gold mineralisation over a strike length of 700m. with gold values ranging from 0.04 to 19.20 g/t in Donna block of Jonnagiri schist belt, Kurnool district and two zones of gold mineralisation over a cumulative strike length of 400m. with gold values ranging from 0.2 to 12.72 g/t in Kudithinappalle block of Chittoor district have been established. Further work is in progress.

(c) Mining is dependent on the assessment of economic viability of the deposit by the investor.

Effect of Liberalisation on Mining Industry

1687. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several PSUs concerned with mining are faced with imminent closure because of liberalisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that metal prices in international market are cheaper than the domestic market and if so, what is its effect on Hindustan Copper Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and PSUs dealing with Aluminium; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to safeguard the interests of the Indian industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The operations of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) engaged in the production of copper, zinc, lead and aluminium were adversly affected during 1993-94 on account of fall in the international prices of these metals and lowering of customs duty. The PSUs are reviewing the scope and need to phase out the uneconomic mines. However, no mine has been closed by the PSUs on account of the liberalisation policy of the Government.

(c) To safeguard the interests of Indian industry the budget proposals for 1994-95 of Government include proposal for rationalisation of import duty structure, levy of countervailing duties, reduction on customs duty on capital imports etc. on non-ferrous metals. The PSUs are also revamping their operations and undertaking expansion of capacities, phasing out of uneconomic units, novative marketing strategy to maximise

sales, and capital restructuring besides, efficient management of physical and financial resources, etc.

Production of Finished Steel

1688. SHZI KAMAL MORAKA Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the Demand and production of finished steel during the last three years and projected during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) how the gap has been met/proposed to be met; and

(c) what are the details of the steps to increase production of finished steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The Demand and production of finished steel during the last three years and projection for the terminal year of 8th Plan i.e. 1996-97 are as under :

(In lakh tonnes)

Domestic	Demand	Production
1990-91	155.2	135.31
1991-92	163.5	143.29
1992-93	177.6	152.04
1996-97	250.0	240.92

(b) The gap between demand and domestic production is met to some extent through imports of iron and steel materials.

(c) In order to increase production of steel, the public sector steel plants have taken up modernisation/expansion programmes. Steps have also been taken to facilitate the setting up of new capacities in the private sector. These include removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector, exemption from the provisions of compulsory licensing, deregulation of pricing and distribution, etc.

इस्पात संयंत्रों में प्रदूषण जांच

1689. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन** : क्या **इस्पात** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश के सभी इस्पात संयंत्रों के संबंध में प्रदूषण जांच कर ली गई है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है तथा यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, और

(ग) इस्पात संयंत्रों में प्रदूषण की जांच करने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) से (ग) पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय की दिनांक 12 फरवरी, 1992 की गजट अधिसूचना और उसके बाद उनके द्वारा जारी संशोधनों के अनुसार उन सभी उद्योगों, जिन्होंने 16 मई, 1981 का अथवा इससे पूर्व उत्पादन शुरू किया था, को 31 दिसम्बर, 1993 तक प्रदूषण नियंत्रण के लिए निर्धारित मानदण्डों का पूरा करने के संबंध में कदम उठाने थे । तदनुसार सभी एकीकृत इस्पात संयंत्रों ने विभिन्न इस्पात संयंत्रों में प्रदूषण के स्तर की जांच की थी और उन्होंने मानदण्डों के अनुसार आवधिक जांच करने के लिए व्यवस्था की है । इन जांचों के अनुसार कई स्टैक से उत्सर्जन मानदण्डों से काफी कम है और शेष स्टैक के संबंध में कार्रवाई शुरू की गई है ।

संयंत्रों द्वारा, वायु जल और ध्वनि प्रदूषण के संबंध में एक विस्तृत प्रदूषण नियंत्रण कार्य योजना तैयार की गई है । इस्पात संयंत्रों द्वारा इस कार्य योजना के अधिकांश कार्य को कार्यान्वित किया जा चुका है परन्तु उपयुक्त प्रौद्यो-